United Nations E/2005/L.6

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
18 February 2005

Original: English

Organizational session for 2005
New York, 19 January, 1-4 February and 27 and 28 April 2005
Agenda item 2
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the Council, Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan), on the basis of informal consultations

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2002/1 of 15 July 2002, 2003/1 of 31 January 2003, 2003/53 of 24 July 2003, 2004/1 of 3 May 2004 and 2004/59 and 2004/61 of 24 July 2004, and its decision 2002/304 of 25 October 2002,

Recognizing the link between political stability and economic and social development in Guinea-Bissau as well as the persistent fragility of its democratic institutions,

Welcoming the positive and constructive role of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau in supporting the country to address its pressing short and longer-term development objectives,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau;[1]

2. *Welcomes* the contributions of the Economic Community of West African States, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and other partners to improving the situation in Guinea-Bissau;

3. *Welcomes also* the recommendation by the Security Council in its resolution 1580 (2004) of 22 December 2004 to establish a voluntary emergency fund, to be administered by the United Nations Development Programme, to support efforts related to the planning and implementation of military reform;

4. *Welcomes further* the commitment of the Government of Guinea-Bissau to hold Presidential elections in accordance with the timetable in the Transition Charter, and in this regard invites the international community to provide financial and technical support to Guinea-Bissau in the holding of these elections;

[1] E/2005/8.

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5. *Expresses appreciation* to those organizations and countries that have provided assistance to Guinea-Bissau in controlling a locust invasion, which is undermining an already fragile economy, and appeals to the international community to provide additional assistance;

6. *Invites* the donor community to consider providing budgetary support to meet emergency needs, including the payment of salaries, in particular by providing additional contributions through the Emergency Economic Management Fund;

7. *Recognizes* that the key challenges for the Government of Guinea-Bissau will be to restore fiscal discipline, rebuild public administration and improve the climate for private investment and economic diversification and that meeting these challenges will require a combination of peace, firm commitment to sound policies by the authorities, improved governance and transparency and the technical and financial support of the international community;

8. *Welcomes* the progress in economic and financial management and accountability as recognized by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank at the meeting of Guinea-Bissau's partners to prepare for the round-table conference, held in Lisbon on 11 February 2005;

9. *Welcomes also* the discussion at the International Monetary Fund on 19 November 2004 of the next steps in the Fund's engagement with Guinea-Bissau, which covered, inter alia, Emergency Post-Conflict Assistance, a Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility and a staff-monitored programme;

10. *Welcomes further* the holding of the meeting of Guinea-Bissau's partners to prepare for the round-table conference, and stresses the importance of strong participation in the donor round-table conference scheduled for October 2005;

11. *Encourages* the Government of Guinea-Bissau to give full consideration to the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group;

12. *Reaffirms* the need to create an enabling environment in Guinea-Bissau to promote economic and social development in the country, and in this regard renews its invitation to the Government of Guinea-Bissau, the organizations of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions, the donor community and the international community as a whole to give full consideration to the recommendations formulated by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group in its first report[2] and to take specific steps to give effect to the partnership approach set out therein, with a view to implementing a long-term programme of support;

13. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau until the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2005, and requests that in its report to the Council at this session, the Group describe how it has fulfilled its mandate and, if necessary, include a discussion of the tasks remaining to be accomplished as well as an estimated timetable for the completion of these tasks, in the light of the prevailing situation, as well as a discussion of the implementation of its recommendations;

14. *Decides* to consider the reports of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau during its substantive session of 2005.

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[2] E/2003/8.